reluctant to get posted in the Store Depot, the present incumbent in the CGHS Homeopathic Store Depot has been posted twice keeping in view administrative exigencies.

Danger from Bio-Chemical Warfare

33. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) his assessment of the danger that India faces from bio-chemical warfare that may be unleashed by terrorist groups; and

(b) the steps taken to deal with this threat?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The threat of bio-chemical warfare cannot be discussed.

(b) Government has initiated the following actions.

(i) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of anthrax.

(ii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bio-terrorism with special reference to anthrax was circulated on October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different States and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/package.

(iii) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(iv) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home & Health, Director of Health Services from various States/Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(v) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigations of any specimen suspected for anthrax.

(vi) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

New Medical College for undergraduate Course at Safdarjung Hospital

34. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Medical College for undergraduate course will be opened at the Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, by when it will start admission of students and how they will be selected; and

(c) the names of Medical colleges which have central quota in admission for undergraduate courses?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary formalities to start admission to the college are being completed.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Centrally sponsored Health Schemes

35. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Centrally-sponsored schemes — National Family Welfare Programme, National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National TB Control Programme, National Programme of Prevention of Blindness, National AIDS Control Programme and Drug Inspectorate in various States/UTs;

(b) the criteria for allocating funds under each scheme to the States and corresponding Central share;

(c) whether this fund is given to the States as 100 per cent grant or does it follow the usual 70/30 (loan/grant) formula for plan assistance; and

(d) the details of proposals received, funds released and utilization for the last three years, State-wise?